

## REPORT TO GREAT CHART with SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2025

I will be pleased to report to you on NHW work since we last met. The need to stay focused on the core crime trends remains very important.

Cars, vans, motorbikes, sheds, garages, and any external storage. Delivery scams and theft of internet shopping parcels remains high. SCAMS as always must feature in our work.

At this time of year, we must alert the community to Rogue Traders calling to carry out and try to get residents to agree to **UNSOLICITED WORK ON THEIR DOORSTEPS**.

Never ever agree no matter how cheap and attractive the price. These criminals start by being pushy and then can become extremely aggressive as the price rises from that first quoted.

Close your door and call the police on 999. Remember one resident may be strong and resist. Further down the road a more vulnerable person will become a victim.

These criminals have no moral compass whatsoever and will look for our elderly, our vulnerable, our disabled especially those who live alone.

Sometimes when a person is a victim, they are so embarrassed they do not tell family, friends or the police so we are completely unaware and so unable to issue crime prevention advice.

On my public engagement the skill required is to give advice and guidance but not scare residents.

Rural areas will be a target as there is unlikely to be police patrols in the area which is why an early report to the police is vital so they can attend the area and hopefully intercept.

**These calls must be 999 CRIME IN PROGRESS OR CRIME ABOUT TO HAPPEN  
PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE**

**Beware of suspicious callers**

Most people who call at your home are genuine. But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to:

- Trick their way into your home to steal valuables or money
- Sell you services or items you do not want or need
- Carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.

If concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

You can also:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Never leave your door unattended
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you.

# Kent Fraud Alert System



TO STOP FRAUD™

## Rogue Traders

We have seen an increase in reports of this type of criminality recently.

Opposite is our leaflet on how you can protect yourself against these types of scams.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.



## Protect yourself and others against rogue traders

Most people who call at your home are genuine. But sometimes people may turn up unannounced and try to sell you services or items you do not want or need or carry out unnecessary repairs to your home at inflated prices.

If you're concerned about someone calling at your home, **don't open your door.**

### You can:

- Ask for identification and call their company yourself (not on a number they provide) to check they are genuine
- Ask the visitor to return another time when someone can be with you
- Get three written quotes
- Ask family and friends for recommendations
- Agree payment arrangements and start and finish dates in writing beforehand, and never pay in full until you're completely satisfied with the work.




### Pressurised selling on your doorstep is a crime and you can report it:

- [kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards) or call 0808 223 1133
- For advice: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/)
- Follow @kent\_ECU or email [kfas@ecis.police.uk](mailto:kfas@ecis.police.uk)



**Kent  
Police**

#### Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online [www.kent.police.uk/report](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)  
Talk to us on LiveChat - available 24/7 [www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://www.kent.police.uk/contact)  
In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call 999  
If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to 60066  
[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)   

#### Preventing fraud

Together,  
let's stop  
scammers.



Remember, ABC:

 **never** Assume

 **never** Believe

 **always** Confirm

Get the latest  
scam advice:

 @KentPoliceECU

**Another matter I wish to alert council too is the plague of catapults across the Ashford district.**

I am helping to run a petition to Government to help change the law on Catapults. I needed 10000 signatures to get a government response, and at the time of writing this report I have almost 19000. As part of that process I have met with one of the Ashford MPs and I await an appointment with the other. Sojan Joseph MP has also raised a question already to ministers.

## Offensive Weapons: Ashford

[Show full question](#)

### Question for Home Office

UIN 38801, tabled on 17 March 2025

#### Question



**Sojan Joseph**

Labour

Ashford



To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to tackle the use of catapults against (a) people, (b) animals and (c) property in Ashford constituency.

#### Answer



**Dame Diana Johnson**

Labour

Kingston upon Hull North and Cottingham



#### Answered on

20 March 2025

We are clear that catapults should not be used for illegal purposes, whether against wildlife, people or property.

The law already provides the police with powers relating to the use of any item as an offensive weapon including a catapult, and also if used in anti-social behaviour or for criminal damage.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996, there are also offences around injuring and inflicting unnecessary suffering on wildlife. These measures give the police powers to deal with cases where wildlife is attacked, including cases involving the misuse of catapults.

We continue to keep all relevant legislation under review in the interests of public safety.

#### Answered by

Home Office



#### Named day

Named day questions only occur in the House of Commons. The MP tabling the question specifies the date on which they should receive an answer. MPs may not table more than five named day questions on a single day.

These weapons are used by feral youths and thugs and have struck at property causing expensive damage to property, Injuring people, and killing innocent defenceless wildlife and animals. Firing at vehicles and even high speed trains.  
Should this problem arise in the area again this must be a 999-call giving the police every chance to intercept.

Petition

## Make the sale of catapults/ammunition and carrying catapults in public illegal.

Make it illegal to carry catapults in public places, so the police can arrest those carrying, especially in areas of known wildlife crime, regardless if ammunition is found or not.

[▶ More details](#)

**Sign this petition**

**19,014** signatures

[Show on a map](#)

100,000

### **Government responded**

This response was given on 3 April 2025

“ The Government will keep this issue under review, balancing the concern over the need to protect wildlife from the minority who misuse catapults, with respect for their legitimate use by anglers.

[▶ Read the response in full](#)

### **At 100,000 signatures...**

At 100,000 signatures, this petition will be considered for debate in Parliament

At the time of writing this report we have just passed the 19500 signatures. As we head into several weeks school holidays and towards the summer holidays, I am disappointed not to have had any information on strategies, policies and campaigns to target this issue which has hit Ashford so badly.  
I await with interest feedback from canvassing KCC candidates on the local doorsteps with direct feedback from residents. Council may be minded writing to both CSUs and ask have they any plans.



**I continue to work on the Violence Against Women & Girls Campaign.**

I engage residents in the community in many forums, most important of all to listen to concerns.

**I continually stress the question is not just ARE WOMEN SAFE IN ASHFORD? But DO THEY FEEL SAFE?**



I do not support, nor will I ever support your councils work with the women only events. All my work from youth groups through all VAWAGs work, whilst standing in supermarket foyers talking about this issue is to engage everyone. The need to involve all males in these campaigns and work cannot be overstated. I am happy to persevere on my own.

My opinion is it is a huge mistake to leave women to fight the battle alone and your women only events encourage this. This is a whole community issue.



I attended the last seminar run by Kent police on VAWAGs and I constantly warn the police to ensure all the words on the slides and leaflets are matched by the actions of the front-line staff.

I have just written to Jess Phillips M P, the minister who has VAWAGs in her remit asking for advice and help with my approach to this work.

No street lampposts, new build sites with alleys and dark corners, no garage doors only car ports, narrow streets where women tell me they come off second best in parking disputes often which are very aggressive.

On parking disputes women and girls tell me they come off second best and are often abused and threatened.

So why are we building roads so narrow with insufficient parking which will cause problems, tensions and neighbour disputes.





Can I draw to your attention the photo directly above the black car on the left is in a parking bay. The car on the right is totally parked on the pavement.

We should be designing out crime on new build developments

So why are we building car ports and not garages with doors, all providing criminal opportunities. Please look at the photographs of the car port and the car port now meaning criminals can gain access to first floor balconies. Women tell me they do not like car ports,



**I may consider writing to the Deputy Prime Minister who has planning and new build** developments very high on her agenda to see if we can encourage thoughts on dealing with several of the issues I have raised.

In my past life in the late 80s and early 90s in my fire service career we won the debate to have wired in with battery backup smoke detectors in all new builds. Imagine the new builds across Ashford if every new property had a camera doorbell fitted as the norm. Criminals would have to face thousands of cameras.

I have written to the PCC raising again the failure of Ashford Police to make council meetings especially since June 2023 and the new Kent Police Neighbourhood Policing Model and the removal of PCSOs. Most councils I work with have not seen an officer at meetings since June 2023. If you recall I met and raised this with the PCC in early February and to date, there has been no improvement. This clearly causes tension with Ashford Police but the road of progress contains many bumps along it. For the police not to link in and be here working with us at meetings is unforgiveable.

Challenge ourselves to improve is blazed across police literature and plans, let me clearly state some do not want to be challenged to improve but the safety and security of the people and residents in the community we have the honour to serve will always be front and centre of my thinking not about winning a popularity contest.

Many councils have written to the PCC raising this complaint and both to me directly and to those councils he has responded to, he has stated they should have been coming every 3 months.

I did write to the Chair of KALC asking for Catapults and Attendance at meetings of police officers to be raised at the March meeting.

In truth it has been difficult to keep track of who and which councils have written to who.

I have had some excellent feedback on my work however from the Chief Constable and PCC and a very good mention on a Radio Kent radio programme from the PCC reflecting on my liaisons and meetings with councils and councillors which is a sign we are on the right track here in Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council.

I have shared with the PCC newsletters and my work with councils. I know he shares our visions.

## **Other matters**

1. I have carried out crime prevention to target car and motorbike thefts
2. ASB /Criminal Damage to newly planted trees.



3. I have been offered a month surgery with one of our MPs, Sojan Joseph, for NHW and I have secure an appointment with Katie Lam MP who covers the rest of Ashford.
4. I publish concerns about fire service/emergency vehicles/ refuse vehicles maybe even supermarket delivery vehicles access in your area.

5 The need through all our work to ensure residents report all crimes and crime numbers

I think this gives you a flavour of the work since we last met. Important to me is not just your support, which is essential, but the chance to listen to your concerns that you may pick up on with your councillor's work.

**Stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant**  
**Thank you again**

**Peter**

**Peter New**

**Community Neighbourhood Watch 07768437422. and [peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com)**

